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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3308th meeting of the Security Council, held on 9 November 1993, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item "The situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council is profoundly shocked to learn of the incident which took place on 8 November 1993 in which two persons were taken hostage by the Bosnian Serb forces, while members of a delegation headed by Monsignor Vinko Puljic, the Archbishop of Sarajevo, travelling to the city of Vares on a mission of peace, under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

"The Security Council strongly condemns this outrageous act, which is a flagrant challenge to the authority and inviolability of UNPROFOR.

"The Security Council takes note that, despite the prompt and commendable intervention of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, neither of the hostages has been released and demands that the Bosnian Serb forces proceed immediately to release them. The Council reminds the perpetrators of this act that they are obligated to ensure that no harm comes to the individuals being held and that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law will be held personally accountable for their actions.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to undertake a thorough investigation of the incident and to report to the Council without delay. It urges all parties and others concerned to refrain from taking any action which might further exacerbate the situation.

"The Security Council condemns all attacks and hostile acts against UNPROFOR by all parties in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in the Republic of Croatia, which have become more frequent over the last weeks, and demands that they cease forthwith."